Irrigation projects of Kerala

*174. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many irrigation projects of Kerala are pending clearance from the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what are reasons for delay in clearing of these projects; and

(d) by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) No projects from Kerala are pending, except the two major irrigation projects, namely, Chimoni and Modernisation of Neyyar Irrigation Project for which the State Government have not sent their compliance on the comments communicated to them.

Indian Scientists in Foreign Countries

*175. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian scientists serving in different countries alongwith the names of such countries as on 30th September, 1988;

(b) the corresponding figures of Indian Scientists serving in foreign countries during the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88; and

(c) the details of efforts made by the Government of India for the return of those Scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) It has not been possible to maintain a list of Indian scientists serving in different countries.

(c) A number of measures have been taken from time to time in the past to attract Indian scientists and technologists settled abroad to come back to the country. Some of these are:

—There is a provision for temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the scheme of Scientists Pool.

—A provision has also been made for creation of supernumerary posts.

—With a view to assisting non-resident Indians to secure expeditious clearance of their applications for setting up of industrial units in the country, a Special Cell has been created in the Ministry of Industry.

—New scientific departments/organisations such as Departments of Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) etc. have been set up and some of these are in high technology areas which are likely to provide opportunities for scientists and technologists and attract them into the country.

—Total outlay for science and technology has been increased in the successive Five Year Plans.

—Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers has been made to scientific institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.

—Facilities to import equipment have been provided to the scientists and technologists returning from abroad.

—Programmes have been launched through which core groups of scientists are created in the country with all necesssary modern